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Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

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This part of the book starts off with Soraya and Amir meeting at a market shop. Both of their parents work there, so they end of meeting one another. Amir has a crush on Soraya and feelings start to develop throughout the book. Later, Amir finds out that his father, Baba is sick. When the doctors release the bad news of Baba’s cancer illness Amir fights to save his life, but Baba refuses treatment. This pushes Amir to ask for Soraya’s hand in marriage, that way his father is there to witness their wedding. Soraya and Amir get to know each others family and lives more, they start to know each other on a deeper level. Soraya even helped take care of Baba until he passed away. Good news comes when Amir has his book published. He is now a published novelist and a minor celebrity. However, with a new wife and great success, Amir remembers what he did to Hassan previously in the book, and he feels guilt and doesn’t think he deserves the great things that have happened. This is why when Soraya and Amir find out that they are incapable of having kids, Amir blames himself, regardless of the fact that it had nothing to do with him.   
 This part of the book was very good. The reader got to know the characters on a deeper level because it explained their past. It is noted that Amir treats women with great respect. Amir reflects thinking, “Maybe it was because I had been raised by men; I hadn’t grown up around women and had never been exposed firsthand to the double standard with which Afghan society sometimes treated them” (page 18). Amir never spent time much with women so he treats them with the same respect he would a man. I liked that even though he was hurtful to Hassan early on in the book, he still has a good heart. Also, Amir is starting to learn responsibility. He knows that with Baba gone he will have to become a man to support his new wife, Soraya. I disliked how the book focused on Baba’s death and final hours of life. It was sad and disappointing because Baba did not try to prevent it. It was as if watching someone die before your eyes and not being able to stop it. I was very surprised and angry that Amir still did not tell Baba what he had done to Hassan as a child. Also, Amir has yet to tell Soraya about it, I think this may backfire and hurt Amir. Soraya opened up to Amir about her path because she wanted to be truthful, whereas Amir has yet to fully do the same.   
 When understanding human nature, one understands that Amir’s human nature is complicated. When Amir was younger he was rude to Hazaras’ because his Pashtun friends encourage it. It was his human nature to follow it because he was seeing Hazaras’ tortured daily. Until he met Soraya, he then realized what he was doing was wrong. Amir realized in this quote, “I thought of how I had used my literacy to ridicule Hassan. How I had teased him about big words he didn’t know” (page 151). Soraya helps illiterate children become literate, while Amir’s human nature never thought to help those that lacked knowledge.   
 When understanding human roles and behavior, one must carefully look at the husband and wife relationship. Soraya’s father, General Sahib and mother Khala Jamila, have an unloving and disrespectful marriage. General is very stern and strict. He did not allow his wife to sing at Amir’s and Soraya’s wedding. Most men have a stereotype as women being perfect and quiet. The Afghan society treats them like dirt at times. Sorarya rants by saying, “Their sons go out to nightclubs looking for meat and get their girlfriends pregnant, they have kids out of wedlock and no one says a goddamn thing. Oh, they’re just men having fun! I make one mistake and suddenly everyone is talking nang, and I have to have my face rubbed in it for the rest of my life” (page 179). One must understand that not all men follow the stereotype or human roles and behavior that General Sahib does. Amir treats Soraya with respect and treats her like an individual. He lets her drink, one thing General Sahib forbids. Soraya says it herself, “You’re so different from every Afghan guy I’ve met” (page 180).   
 When understanding human ideas, one notices that the General Sahib cares more about the way he is portrayed. He has ideals of what he wants his family and himself to be like. He wants Soraya to be well off and have a well paying job instead of being a teacher. He will never seek lower work because he thinks he is too good for it. He does not correct people when they call him General, he just expects it. General Sahib’s ideal of himself is that he is the powerhouse of the family. He feels that it is his way or the highway. No one can have a say in the family, only the General Sahib. Soraya secretly talks about her father by saying, “I won’t bruise his precious ego” (page 182). General Sahib’s human ideal never really changed throughout this part of the book.